Appln. of: VESCHI, Robert A.
Serial No.: 09/574,820
Filed: May 19, 2000

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising a private dialing plan for communication of packetized voice on a packet-based network involving ~~a~~ at least one network gateway, wherein:

a caller's on-network access to ~~the plan~~ a gateway is accomplished, at least in part, ~~by~~ using a multi-part access sequence consisting of a leading ~~"0,"~~ "0", followed by the caller's conventional telephone number or other telephone number registered with the plan, followed, at least in part, by a multiple digit user ~~PIN~~ personal identification number;

off-network access to the plan is provided at least in part through telephone dial-up access to a gateway using ~~the~~ a public telephone switching system;

a call ~~calls~~ to on-network Internet Protocol (IP) addresses ~~are~~ is placed by dialing or keying a sequence consisting of a leading ~~"0,"~~ "0", followed by ~~the~~ a telephone number registered with the plan ~~for that~~ corresponding to the ~~user~~ IP address; and

a call ~~calls~~ to an off-net conventional ~~telephones are~~ telephone is placed by dialing a ~~"1,"~~ "1", followed by ~~the~~ a telephone number corresponding to the off-net telephone ~~to be called,~~

wherein at least one call originates on the Internet and terminates off-net, and wherein routing tables determine a least cost route to terminate the call.

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2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a Q.931 signaling protocol ~~such as Q.931~~ is used to establish, maintain and release switched connections over the network.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein database search keys based, at least in part, on member registered conventional telephone numbers are used to access various plan database information, such as the IP address corresponding with the called number and any optional services or features available for that member.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein a ~~the~~ gatekeeper determines which is the optimum way to route on-net calls.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~1~~ 7 wherein calls originate on the Internet and terminate off-net, and ~~the~~ gatekeeper routing tables determine ~~the~~ a least cost route to terminate the call.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein optional services ~~are~~ available for PC-to-PC calls~~, including~~ are selected from the group of services comprising:

forward unconditional;
forward on busy;
forward on no answer;
forward on no response;
call waiting;
blind transfer; and
consultative transfer.

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7. (New) A method comprising a private dialing plan for communication of packetized voice on a packet-based network involving at least one network gateway, wherein:

on-network access to a gateway is accomplished, at least in part, using a multi-part access sequence consisting of a leading "0", followed by the caller's conventional telephone number or other telephone number registered with the plan, followed, at least in part, by a multiple digit user ~~PIN~~ personal identification number;

off-network access to the plan is provided at least in part through telephone dial-up access to a gateway using a public telephone switching system;

calls to on-network Internet Protocol (IP) addresses are accomplished, at least in part, using a sequence consisting of a leading "0", followed by a telephone number registered with the plan corresponding to the IP address; and

calls to off-net conventional telephones are accomplished, at least in part, by dialing a "1", followed by a telephone number corresponding to the off-net telephone to be called,

wherein optional services available for PC-to-PC calls are selected from the group of services comprising:

forward unconditional; forward on busy; forward on no answer; forward on no response; call waiting; blind transfer; and consultative transfer.

8. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein a Q.931 signaling protocol is used to establish, maintain and release switched connections over the network.

9. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein database search keys based, at least in part, on member registered conventional telephone numbers are used to access various plan database information, such as the IP address corresponding with the called number and any optional services or features available for that member.

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10. (New) The method of claim 7 wherein a ~~the~~ gatekeeper determines which is the optimum way to route on-net calls.

11. (New) A method, in a system comprising a private dialing plan for communication of packetized voice on a packet-based network involving at least one network gateway, the method comprising:

obtaining on-network access to a gateway using a multi-part access sequence consisting of a leading "0", followed by a conventional telephone number or another telephone number registered with the plan, followed, at least in part, by a multiple digit user personal identification number;

calling an off-net conventional telephone by dialing a "1", followed by a telephone number corresponding to the off-net conventional telephone,

wherein routing tables determine a least cost route to terminate the call.

12. (New) A method as in claim 11 wherein optional services available for PC-to-PC calls are selected from the group of services comprising:

forward unconditional; forward on busy; forward on no answer; forward on no response; call waiting; blind transfer; and consultative transfer.

13. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein a Q.931 signaling protocol is used to establish, maintain and release switched connections over the network.